Salvation Voyage Publication

KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP (PT 2)
ACCOUNTABILITY TO PEOPLE

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After diving into the very heart of kingdom stewardship, we saw from the spectrum of scripture that we are called by God unto faithful stewardship. We understand that our blessed hope remains not only the consummation of our redemption but a reminder of a day of reckoning before our Lord. Our dive progresses into another aspect of truth regarding faithful service to or great God.

In matters of kingdom stewardship, the Lord requires that his servants remain accountable to one another. Our accountability to God is seen in how we are accountable to people. "*Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account…" (Hebrews 13:17)* Accountability to one another is omnidirectional—from subordinates to superiors and among contemporaries. Ultimately the commands of God on a deeper front teaches God's children to relate with one another with honor.

Being accountable to people helps straighten us and deliver us from the spirit of error born out of our ego. *"…Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed…" (James 5:16)* It is unwise for us to think of ourselves as only accountable to God because we would render account and service to God through people and with people. In the kingdom, God shares his authority at varying depths for leading his Church, and ultimately all must remain accountable to God. Submitting to one another is a mark of accountability, that we don't act solely on our impulses but understand that we are members of one body.

The Church of God is the family of God, the bride of Christ, the body of Christ and forever the beloved of Christ. The consciousness of this very truth is essential for relating and fulfilling kingdom service. It remains impossible to serve God faithfully divorced of accountability to the body. Shepherds must remain accountable and so must the flock. A true leader must be accountable to those he or she leads, just as a true follower should remain accountable to leadership.

Accountability to people leads to spiritual maturity. For God to perfect the saints, he works through men creating transformation in our lives. Although Paul of Tarsus encountered Jesus, he was instructed to go and submit to Ananias in Damascus for the instructions of

his faith. *(Acts 9:10-12)* At another instance when rumors and accusations were leveled against him, he listened to the instructions of James. *(Acts 21:17-26)*

Declaring independence to ourselves especially in the service of God's kingdom is antithetical to Christian doctrine. God through His holy apostles painted the portrait of true kingdom stewardship. We can serve God faithfully when accountability moves from the shelves of theory to the fields of practice. Honor to God implies honoring men and love for God implies love for people. Jesus said that the commandments of the law hang on two commands: *(1) to love God with all our heart, soul and mind and (2) to love our neighbors as ourselves*. From this we see that the first is revealed in the second and the second hidden in the first. If we love God, we will love our neighbors and when we love our neighbors it is ultimately revealing our love for the Lord. This is the heart of Christianity; that we are not relating with God exclusively but in the consciousness of the family life.